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NDP MP PAT MARTIN ALMOST LOSES VOTE FOR 'BRIEFLY' LEAVING SEAT BECAUSE OF UNDIES THAT WERE 'CLEARLY TOO SMALL'

PAGE 3



LUNCH

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TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

Manitoba skip Jennifer Jones spends a few moments with her two-year-old daughter, Isabella Laing, following a morning draw against P.E.I. at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Moose Jaw, Sask. on Thursday. More tournament coverage, Page 24. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bowman vs. CentreVenture

Development.
Crowdfunded poll asks voters to pick sides

COLIN FAST
winnipeg@metronews.ca

A group of city-hall watchers wants to know whose side citizens are on in the battle between Mayor Brian Bowman and CentreVenture over a downtown development, and they've formed a new public opinion group to find out.

The organizers behind Winnipeg Check Up hope to run a series of crowdfunded quarterly surveys on hot-button issues in Winnipeg, and they're starting with questions about Bowman's job performance and CentreVenture's role in city land sales.

"The mayor's approval rating is timely, given the attention the city received from the Maclean's article and the controversy over the True North land deal at 220 Carlton St.," said spokesman Michael Diamond.

"If the mayor sees con-

tinued strong support, he should be emboldened to continue with the path he has been pursuing."

For a \$50 contribution, funders will get access to poll results before they're released to the public. The telephone poll will be done using interactive voice response technology, which allows results to be turned around quickly.

Diamond said his group decided to pursue a crowdfunding model because there's an appetite for more research on civic issues, but traditional polls done by large media organizations are infrequent.

"If we want to actually get a handle on public opinion, folks chipping in to fund market research on these important matters is necessary," said Diamond.

Contribute

Contributions to Winnipeg Check Up can be made through the crowdfunding site IndieGoGo or at WinnipegCheckUp.ca.

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THOUSANDS OF CANADIANS CHOOSE ECUADOR FOR THEIR RECREATION AND INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The trend is not new: each year, thousands of Canadians flee the cold and the snow, heading south to sun destinations for weeks or months at a time. While many dream of owning a property in the South, the uncertainty surrounding the entire process can make taking the next step somewhat daunting. Not to worry! Since 2010 the Canadian company HolaEcuador has been helping Canadians succeed in acquiring their own piece of paradise.

GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT: KEY FACTORS

The Canadian company HolaEcuador understood the challenges faced by Canadian snowbirds and now facilitates the sun property acquisition process. After having visited Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama, company co-owners Gordon Poole and Yves Cormier chose Ecuador as the ideal location. The quality of the country's infrastructure, incredible biodiversity, low cost of living, beautiful landscapes, accessible and modern healthcare system and year-round mild climate were the decisive factors.

"Since 2010 we have helped hundreds of Canadians acquire a property on the Pacific coast of Ecuador", says Mr. Cormier, VP Sales and Marketing. "We are literally creating an entire seaside village. Of the 1,700 properties that we had available at the start of the project, only 700 remain unsold. And now with the majority of the site infrastructure completed, home construction is ramping up quickly."



Mr. and Mrs. Oulianov purchased their property in HolaEcuador's urban development. "The ability to sign a Canadian contract was reassuring for us", indicates Mrs. Oulianov. "Furthermore, the HolaEcuador representatives here in our area answered all of our questions and helped us throughout the entire purchase process. The whole experience was very positive!" The following comments were shared by Mrs. Boucher, who felt reassured by the progress

of the construction of her house and the project in general: "What was promised, was delivered! The project is moving forward"



Mr. and Mrs.
Oulianov,
HolaEcuador
Clients



quickly and the promoters work with the utmost precaution and make the proper decisions.", she adds.

GOOD TIME TO INVEST

For now, Ecuador remains a relatively well-kept secret. Properties in Ecuador are much more affordable than in similar tourist destinations, which is one of the main reasons that Canadian travellers and investors are flocking to the region. "Prices reflect what was available in Costa Rica 15 years ago, but in a country where first-rate and modern infrastructure is already in place" confirms Mr. Poole. "Further, the Ecuadorian government is very stable and the currency is the US dollar, which is also very reassuring for investors.", he adds.

All that said, prices are rising quickly with the current real estate boom in the region. The Oulianovs wanted to act quickly and take advantage of the favourable market. "The development itself is spectacular - an endless beautiful beach, lots of parks and gardens, services available right on the site, and a ton of activities available in the region. We're convinced that this will be a fantastic community in a secure and comfortable environment."

TO GET MORE INFORMATION

"At HolaEcuador's informational seminar I was pleased to discover the high level of professionalism of the developers and the overall quality of the project. In addition to providing lots of interesting information about Ecuador in general, Mr. Poole also provided an in-depth look into this residential project and he took the time to answer numerous questions from the participants. The information that was provided at the seminar left me with a great deal of confidence to take the next steps in realizing my dream." says Al Hendley.



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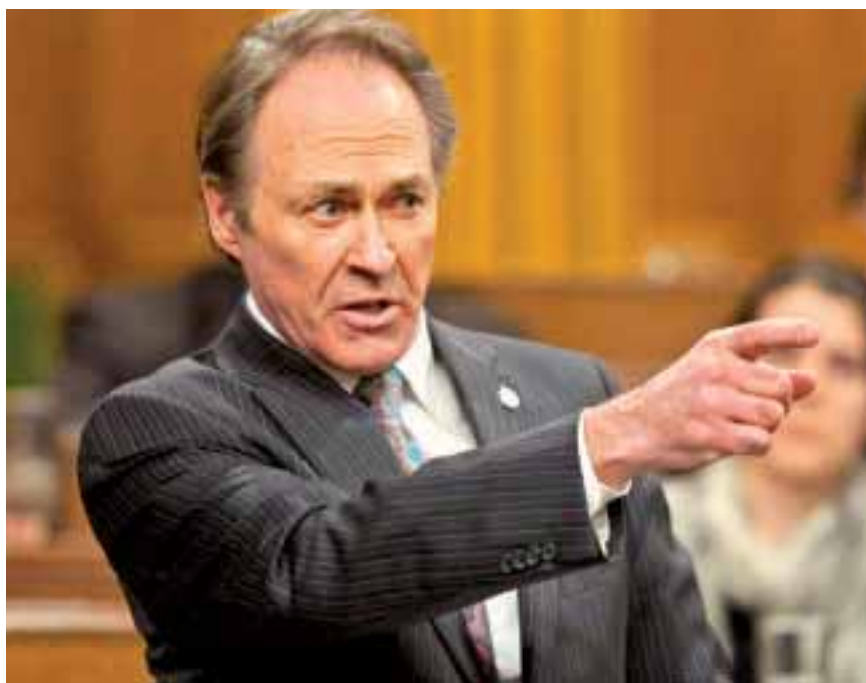
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Pat Martin's cheap undies get him in tight situation



MP Pat Martin's half-price, too-small underwear almost cost him a vote in the House of Commons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa. Despite briefly leaving his seat in the House because of tight underwear, MP's vote Thursday will stand



SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Cheap, ill-fitting underwear may have prevented him from sitting, but Pat Martin's vote in the House of Commons will stand.

The Winnipeg Centre MP left his seat "briefly" after voting on a procedural motion to adjourn debate Thursday.

When Conservatives asked the speaker whether Martin's departure would mean his vote doesn't count, Martin rose and unabashedly told the House why he'd left.

"I can blame it on a sale that was down at the Hudson's Bay — they had men's underwear on for half price. I bought

a bunch that was clearly too small for me and I find it difficult to sit for any length of time," he said while his fellow MPs laughed and cheered loudly. "I apologize if it was necessary for me to leave my seat briefly, but I did not mean to forfeit my right to vote."

A red-faced Deputy Speaker Joe Comartin admitted to having "had no briefing on this type of a motion" but, after consultation, decided Martin's vote should be counted.

"I'm trying to not deal with this with the degree of levity that it deserves," he said to more laughter. "But I think I would have to say at this point, since he was both in his seat at the time when motion was read and was in his seat at the time he voted, that I would have to let his vote stand."

The Hudson's Bay Company got in on the joke Thursday, tweeting a men's underwear ad with: "Pants are overrated."

There was no immediate word on how much Martin paid for the underwear.

Police store genes of beloved dog Judge

Winnipeg police have stored the genetic material of their star police dog, who died last month, in the hopes of breeding more like him down the road.

The 11-year-old Belgian Malinois, named Judge, died of kidney failure nine months after retiring.

The police force says Judge was the top tracker in its history, with more than 500 ar-

rests under his collar during his 10 years of service.

Judge already has a lot of offspring making their mark — 23 of his puppies and nine grandpuppies are working as police dogs across North America.

Canine unit Sgt. Dave Bessason says it's hoped his genetic material will be used to produce pups for the next decade.

Bessason says training is

the foundation of a good service dog, but genetics play a really important part.

"That drive, that tracking drive, you can see it in the dogs," agrees canine unit Const. Shawn Lowry. "I can see it in them, I know that it's there and it's really nice to see it's continuing on."

Officers from the unit gathered Wednesday night for a memorial for Judge, who

worked with Sgt. Scott Taylor.

"We're a tight group of people and our patriarch was put down," said Bessason. "It was really, really tough."

He said Judge and Taylor were an amazing team.

"He'd work a track two-and-a-half, three hours old. They just hated to lose," said Bessason. "They're a team I don't think we'll ever replace."

CTV WINNIPEG/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Det. Sgt. Scott Taylor and star police dog Judge. SHANE GIBSON/METRO FILE

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1 NEWS

Stabbing victim in critical condition, cousin charged

A Winnipeg man is fighting for his life in hospital after police say he was stabbed by his own cousin while the two fought over booze at a family get-together early Wednesday.

The 27-year-old victim was rushed to hospital from a home in the 2100 block of Gallagher Avenue around 4:45 a.m. Police said Thursday he remains in critical condition.

Jeremy Peltier, 27, is charged with aggravated assault and two counts of assault with a weapon, but police said those charges could be upgraded to murder should the victim die.

Police spokesman Const. Jason Michalyshen said that's why detectives from the Homicide Unit have taken the lead on the investigation.

"I certainly want to be as optimistic as I can and certainly our thoughts are with the family ... but again the condition of the victim is very, very serious," he told media.

Michalyshen said the pair had been drinking with



Winnipeg police spokesperson Const. Jason Michalyshen speaks to media after a man was charged for allegedly stabbing his cousin over booze at a family party Wednesday.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

several family members in the home when a fight broke out over who had brought what liquor to the party.

"It's incredibly unfortunate," said Michalyshen. "A simple incident over alcohol turns into an incident where we know have homicide investigators involved." **METRO**

Neighbours suspect arson

Elgin Avenue. A city official says no one was injured in the fire, and the cause of is still under investigation



BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

Two houses on Elgin Avenue near the Health Sciences Centre have been destroyed in what neighbours believe was an incident of arson.

The fire began at an unoccupied home in the 600-block of Elgin on Wednesday at 5:08 p.m., said a city spokesperson.

Due to the frigid temperatures, several crews were required to fight the fire, which then flared up overnight and spread to another vacant home.

By Thursday at 9 a.m., the fire was completely out and the first house to go up in flames was demolished.

A woman who lives further east on the Elgin block



A man takes a picture with his smartphone of the aftermath of a house fire on Elgin Avenue that began on Wednesday, but had crews battling the flames until early Thursday morning.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

told Metro that a neighbour saw teenagers run from the home shortly before flames

erupted.

The city spokesperson said the cause of the fire

is still under investigation and no injuries were reported.

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Man exposes his Timbits in Hortons line



Surveillance video photo of a man suspected of exposing himself at a Tim Hortons. WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

Kenaston Boulevard. Police asking for help identifying person who wore pants with a hole cut in them while in line

Winnipeg police are asking for the public's help tracking down a man who pulled out more than his wallet while in

line at a Winnipeg coffee shop earlier this month.

Investigators released security camera footage Thursday of a man they say exposed himself while calmly waiting in line, ordering — and then receiving that order — at a Tim Hortons on Kenaston Boulevard Feb. 2.

"Obviously these pictures have been cropped and modified so it is appropriate for us to make public," said po-

lice spokesman Const. Jason Michalysen, adding the video shows a hole had been cut in the man's pants. "It appears that he modified these pants in some way so he could be exposed, I'm not going to go any further than that."

"But it's a very clear indicator of his intentions."

Michalysen said the exposure was so blatant that investigators received a complaint

from a customer who noticed it while going through the restaurant's drive-thru.

Police say a man who was in a nearby parking lot with his young daughter also reported seeing a man exposing himself. Investigators believe it's the same person.

"No one in our community needs to be subjected to this," Michalysen said. "Despite the fact there's no violence, despite

the fact there's no contact, it's still very serious."

The man is described as white, 35 to 40, five-foot-eight, medium build, with receding brown hair. He was wearing a light green jacket and tight black yoga-style pants.

Anyone with info should call police at 204-986-6245 or Winnipeg CrimeStoppers at 204-786-TIPS.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Jonas Budd. RCMP locate murder, abduction suspect near border of Manitoba

Police say they have found a suspect in the fatal shooting of a man and the abduction of a 17-year-old girl in northern Saskatchewan.

RCMP Sgt. Craig Cleary says that officers located Jonas Budd, after an extensive search, at a home in Sturgeon Landing close to the Manitoba border.

"(We) are committed to trying to resolve this as peacefully and as safely as possible," Cleary said Thursday.

Officers established a perimeter around the house.

The search for Budd began in Manitoba and Saskatchewan on Wednesday after the shooting of a 17-year-old boy and the abduction of his girlfriend.

An Amber Alert was issued for Kayla Natomagan of the Lac La Ronge First Nation, but was cancelled when she was found unharmed near Cranberry Portage in Manitoba, about 450 kilometres from her home.

RCMP said at the time that they believed Budd, 43, had fled on foot into the bush.

They had said he was armed and dangerous.

Cleary said Sturgeon Landing residents were being asked to be mindful of police barricades.

"These kinds of situations can last a short period of time or a number of days unfortunately."

On Wednesday, Budd's brother, who lives in Sturgeon Landing, said he hoped the matter would end peacefully without further bloodshed.

Glenn Budd said if he could speak to his younger brother he would tell him to "give himself up, don't hurt anybody."

Crown prosecutor Luke Coupal said an arrest warrant had been issued for Jonas Budd, just hours before the shooting, on charges of break and enter and mischief dating back to an alleged incident in early October at the home of Natomagan's mother.

He was scheduled to appear in court Wednesday but didn't show up. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Go to metronews.ca for the latest on this story.



RCMP officers have located Jonas Budd, a suspect in the fatal shooting of a man and the abduction of a 17-year-old girl in northern Saskatchewan, at a home in Sturgeon Landing close to the Manitoba border. RCMP HANDOUT

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Sport. Women's World Cup trophy coming to the 'Peg

The most important trophy in women's soccer will be in Winnipeg this May.

Manitoba's capital is part of the FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy Tour sponsored by Coca-Cola that will see the cup stop in 12 cities, starting with Ottawa on April 1.

The 'Peg stop takes place at Polo Park Shopping Centre from May 8-10 and will give FIFA fans the chance to get up-close-and-personal with the trophy.

"The FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola will be the rallying cry for our Canadian Women's National Team leading up to the tournament in June," said John Herdman, the head coach of Canada's national soccer team, in a press release.

"As Coca-Cola and FIFA bring the trophy across Canada, and we see the support and pride that Canadians have for the game and our team, it will push us even harder."

The Trophy Tour is a staple for FIFA World Cups,



The FIFA Women's World Cup trophy FIFA/HANDOUT

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especially the men's tourney, and gives people of all ages the chance not only to see it but also be part of the "fan experience" by matching up against the Coca-Cola Robot Goalie and seeing the skills of futbol freestylers.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

More time needed to deliberate CentreVenture funding: Official

City hall. Another four months to be taken to find stable model for downtown development agency



BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

Coming up with a long-term funding plan for the city's arms-length downtown development agency CentreVenture will take another four months.

City officials told members of the executive policy committee on Wednesday that they need more time to come up with possible solutions, especially since a working group was established on Feb. 4 to look at the agency's governance structure.

"So a short extension, under belief, is appropriate under these circumstances," said the city official.



Coun. Marty Morantz, right, with City of Winnipeg acting CAO Michael Jack, listens as a city official responds to his question about long-term funding for CentreVenture during a Wednesday meeting. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Finance chair Coun. Marty Morantz put several questions to the public servants, including asking for information on the ongoing negotiations between the city and

CentreVenture.

A city official told Morantz that more than 20 ideas are under consideration, such as tax-based formulas and possibly extending CentreVen-

ture's jurisdiction beyond the downtown.

Mayor Brian Bowman made clear during Wednesday's meeting that this funding initiative was launched before last October's election — and therefore before the recent controversy surrounding CentreVenture and True North Sports & Entertainment over the former site of the Carlton Inn.

The original motion for CentreVenture's long-term funding came forward on June 25, 2014, and gave a six-month deadline.

"By my math, that six months expired well before the working group was constituted," said Bowman, adding he wanted to be clear that it wasn't that the report was ready to go and "then the mandate review was struck and therefore you yanked it and put it on hold."

The city official apologized for the delay and said they simply need more time for analysis.

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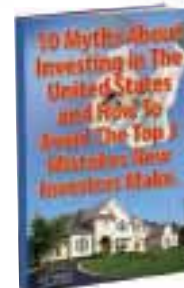
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Chance low of Red River Basin flooding

Thanks to lower than usual snowfall, the threat of spring flooding in the Red River Basin is "currently quite low," said the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS) Thursday.

The weather forecast office in Grand Forks, N.D., released their latest outlook for spring flooding, saying lower than average snow packs, river flows and soil moisture have all contributed to the good news — and it's expected to stay that way.

The rest of the season is expected to be cold and dry into early March, said the NWS, then head into near normal temperatures and precipitation afterwards through April.

"Long story short: Winter is nearly over, (but) a heavy snowfall or spring rain are still possible," the NWS reported.

Generally, a positive outlook for Manitoba's southern neighbouring state means a positive outlook for southern

Quoted

"Winter is nearly over, but a heavy snowfall or spring rain are still possible."

The U.S. National Weather Service

Manitoba, as the Red River flows upwards from North Dakota through the Red River Valley.

However, this is not always

the case, as localized flooding can happen due to changing weather patterns and ice dams.

Still, everything remains below normal, with the exception of the frost depth in the basin, said the NWS.

"A late December deep cold snap and an overall scant snowpack allowed for an initial deep frost plunge, with basin-wide frost depths ranging from 2.5 to 3.5 feet deep."

METRO



Mayor Brian Bowman answers reporters' questions following Wednesday's executive policy committee meeting. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

311 report a city priority

City hall. Audit finds that 41% of calls into city hall are related to public transportation



BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

Mayor Brian Bowman said improving the city's 311 service is something he wants to see happen — even though his executive policy committee accepted an audit only as information.

An audit of the city's 311 service found that people are waiting longer to speak to a representative and hang-ups are on the rise.

To fix that, the audit states 20 full-time hires are needed to meet the target of answering 80 per cent of calls within 30 seconds or the alternative is the city setting a "more realistic" target.

"We are going to receive it as information, we are going to consider it and then we'll take whatever steps we believe are necessary to implement the recommendations," said Bowman, adding that council gets the report on Feb. 25, and could act on it at that time.

"There's some good recommendations and we all want

Transparent, accountable

Winnipeg's 311, according to the audit, is "delivering service to citizens in a more transparent and accountable manner" and the cost-per-call minute has been reduced "to \$0.68 in 2012 from an estimated \$1.13 to \$1.30 prior to 311."

SOURCE: 311 CONTACT CENTRE
AUDIT, DEC. 2014

to make sure the service is improved. It's something I heard a lot about during the election campaign."

Bowman said he was alarmed to see the high volume of Winnipeg Transit calls that the 311 service deals with.

The audit found that 41 per cent of the calls received in 2013 were transit-related, to which the use of Interactive Voice Response (IVR) was recommended so that those calls could be rerouted to Navigo and Telebus and "free up existing resources."

"There's a lot of people who call in and appreciate receiving an actual body to talk to (but) you counter that with 41 per cent of the calls are transit-related and you move to IVR, the cost savings are significant," added Bowman.

Cottage living

19 vacation lots up for grabs in Manitoba

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship announced Thursday a cottage lot draw this spring will see 19 new cottage lots—including three lakefront locations—up for grabs.

Ten of the new lots are at Zed Lake, while the rest are scattered throughout the province.

Anyone interested in taking part in the 2015 Spring Cottage Lot Draw must submit their applications either in person or by mail to the Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship office at 200 Saulteaux Cres. in Winnipeg no later than 4:30 p.m. March 26. **METRO WINNIPEG**

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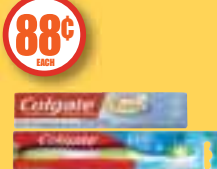
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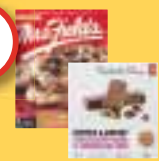
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Quebec

Family of strip-searched teen girl to sue school board

The lawyer representing the family of a 15-year-old girl who was strip-searched at a Quebec City high school says they intend to take the school board to court.

Lawyer Francois David Bernier says the high school misinterpreted government

guidelines on searching students and humiliated his client.

The incident sparked outrage across the country after the girl told a local paper she felt violated by the search one week ago. The school proceeded with the search after officials suspected her of selling drugs.

The school board said in a news release that administrators at the Neufchatel high school followed government and police guidelines for con-

ducting school strip searches.

The government guidelines, however, do not specifically mention naked searches. The school said the girl was made to take off her clothes and stand behind a blanket while school officials searched her clothing.

Bernier said he has not officially filed any documents in court and is still evaluating the damage done to his client. He added that the family is not ruling out seeking punitive damages. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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It's Lucky the Bison knocking

Sandy Melanson pets a bison at her front door in Dryden, Ont., on Tuesday. Melanson says the runaway bison from a nearby ranch came up the driveway and right up to their front door. She says the animal, named Lucky, has wandered away a few times from the Northern Buffalo Ranch down the road.

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kenney praises anti-terrorism bill

Security. More homegrown jihadist terror attacks possible, says defence minister

Defence Minister Jason Kenney sang the praises of the federal government's anti-terror bill Thursday as he used his maiden speech to Canada's military establishment to warn that more homegrown terror attacks are likely.

The country is engaged in a long-term ideological struggle with radical Islam, Kenney told the annual Ottawa gathering hosted by the Conference of Defence Associations Institute.

"We need only to look to Copenhagen, to Paris, to Brussels and to Sydney," Kenney said. The notion that western

civilization and style of government are never going to be challenged is wrongheaded, he added. Canada's geographic remoteness, prosperity and pluralism "have given Canadians reason to think that we can avoid real threats to our peaceable dominion. Yet we face a global movement that quite literally defies reason."

Kenney, who took over from Rob Nicholson earlier this month, says the country "shouldn't overreact to this threat, nor should we underreact."

Debate over the government's proposed Bill C-51, which would increase the powers of security agencies, notably the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), began earlier this week in the House of Commons.

The concerns of the bill's

critics are exaggerated, Kenney said. "We are taking all of these steps while respecting the rights of Canadians."

New Democrats oppose the legislation. The Liberals have said they will support it, but promise to fix some of the flaws if they form government after this year's election.

One of the loudest complaints about the bill is that it lacks additional oversight of intelligence services to prevent possible excesses. The government says no new mechanisms or bodies are needed beyond what already exists.

Bill C-51 is the government's response to the killing last October of two Canadian soldiers, one of whom died during the Oct. 22 attack on Parliament Hill. The bill is meant to counter the threat of homegrown radicalism. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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WEEKEND, February 20-22, 2015

CANADA

13

Former MP faces a year's jail time

Del Mastro. Crown seeks to send 'clear message' about campaign overspending

As a Crown prosecutor sought to have Dean Del Mastro jailed up to a year for his campaign overspending convictions, the former Conservative MP's lawyer vehemently argued the penalty would be far too harsh for a case he claimed did not involve electoral fraud.

The spirited submissions were made Thursday at a sentencing hearing for Del Mastro, who was found guilty last fall of violating the Canada Elections Act during the 2008 campaign.

The Crown said it was essential that the former politician's punishment deliver a clear message. "Nothing less than a period of imprisonment of nine to 12 months would adequately



Former MP Dean Del Mastro
FRED THORNHILL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

reflect the gravity of the offences and the degree of his responsibility," said prosecutor Tom Lemon.

Lemon asked Del Mastro be required to pay \$10,000 to the Peterborough Conservative Party Electoral District Association to reimburse money he "fraudulently obtained" for a contract with a consulting firm.

Quoted

"Anything less than real jail would fall short of properly denouncing his conduct and adequately deterring him and others from committing these or similar offences."

Prosecutor Tom Lemon

Del Mastro — Prime Minister Stephen Harper's one-time point man on defending the Tories against allegations of electoral fraud — has maintained his innocence throughout his trial, and even called the judge's verdict her "opinion."

The Crown's arguments were challenged by Del Mastro's lawyer, who repeatedly said time behind bars was far too heavy a penalty for his client. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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MONDAY, APRIL 6th

WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#1)

Rumor's Comedy Club
7:45pm - TICKETS: \$20
HEADLINER: Mike MacDonald

WCF THEATRE SERIES - "HA!"

Starring Wes Borg
Gas Station Arts Centre
8pm - TICKETS: \$15

WCF THE UPPER DECK

King's Head Pub
10pm - TICKETS: \$10
(18+ event no minors)
HOST: Dan Verville
PERFORMERS: Amber Daniels, Dan Glasswick, Paul Rabinovitch, Wes Borg

TUESDAY, APRIL 7th

HIGH SCHOOL SUPER IMPROV SHOW

Gas Station Arts Centre
7pm - TICKETS: \$5
HOST: Stephen Sim and Caitlin Curtis

WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#2)

Rumor's Comedy Club
8pm - TICKETS: \$12
HEADLINER: Pete Johansson

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK

Club Regent Event Centre
8pm - TICKETS: \$25
Proceeds to Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba
HOST: Al Rae
PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, Mike MacDonald, Hot Thespian Action, Chantel Marostica, Adam Schwartz, Andrew Lizotte

WCF THE UPPER DECK

King's Head Pub
10pm - TICKETS: \$10
(18+ event no minors)
HOST: Ben Walker
PERFORMERS: Andy Noble, Aisha Alfa, Sterling Scott, Andrew Lizotte

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th

GASTROCONIQUE

Fusion Grill
6pm - TICKETS: \$150
Featuring dazzling entertainment from Elvira Kurt.

THE WINNIPEG SHOW

Club Regent Event Centre
7:30pm - TICKETS: \$20
HOST: Big Daddy Tazz
PERFORMERS: Matt Fails, Melanie Dahlberg, Dan Verville, Aisha Alfa, Jared Story, Jordan Webwood, Jon Ljungberg

WCF THEATRE SERIES - OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER

Starring John Wing
Gas Station Arts Centre
8pm - TICKETS: \$20
PERFORMED BY: John Wing
OPENING ACT: Wes Borg

WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#3)

Rumor's Comedy Club
8pm - TICKETS: \$12
HOST: Mark Forward
PERFORMERS: Sean Emery, Simon Rakoff

WCF THE UPPER DECK

King's Head Pub
10pm - TICKETS: \$10
(18+ event no minors)
HOST: Bruce Clark
PERFORMERS: Tom Steffen, Sean Emery, Cara Lytwyn, Jon Ljungberg, Pete Johansson

THURSDAY, APRIL 9th

WCF THEATRE SERIES - LEFTOVERS

Starring Charles Demers
Gas Station Arts Centre
7:30pm - TICKETS: \$15
WRITTEN BY: Charles Demers
DIRECTED BY: Marcas Youssaf

T.V. DINNER

A multimedia improv show
Metropolitan Entertainment Centre by Canad Inns
5pm - Cocktails 6pm
dinner 7pm show
TICKETS: \$40 with dinner (floor seats) - \$85 no dinner (balcony) - PERFORMERS: Wes Borg, Stephen Sim, Ryan Belleville, Kevin McDonald, Tricia Cooper

THURSDAY GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre
7:45pm - TICKETS: \$35
THEME: Rest and Relaxation
HOST: Jeremy Horz
PERFORMERS: Mark Forward, Ivan Decker, Tanyadee Davis, Tim Rabinovitch, Efthymios Nesiopoulos, Sterling Scott

WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#4)

Rumor's Comedy Club
8pm - TICKETS: \$12
HEADLINER: David Pryde

HOT THESPIAN ACTION UNCORKE

Gas Station Arts Centre
9:30pm - TICKETS: \$18.00

WCF AFTER DARK

Metropolitan Entertainment Centre by Canad Inns
10:30pm - TICKETS: \$22
(18+ event no minors)
HOST: Shannon Lavery
PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, Tim Nutt, Pete Johansson, Tyler Morrison, Derek Seguin, Darcy Michael

FRIDAY, APRIL 10th

FRIDAY EARLY GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre
6:45pm - TICKETS: \$35
THEME: Fish Out of Water
HOST: Ryan Belleville
PERFORMERS: Darryl Orr, Danish Azwar, Caitlin Langelier, Derek Edwards, Sean Emery, Rebecca Kohler

WCF THEATRE SERIES - "HA!"

Starring Wes Borg
Gas Station Arts Centre
7:30pm - TICKETS: \$18

WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#5)

Rumor's Comedy Club
7:45pm - TICKETS: \$15
HEADLINER: Sterling Scott

LOST IN TRANSLATION, PERDU EN QUOI?

Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain
8pm - TICKETS: \$10
PERFORMERS: Stephen Sim, Caitlin Curtis, Chloé Freynet, Gagné, George Grenier, Jane Tester, Eric Plamondon

FRIDAY LATE GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre
9:45pm - TICKETS: \$35
THEME: Too Much Information
HOST: Shann Majumder
PERFORMERS: DJ Demers, Steve Dylan, Tim Nutt, Ashley Moffatt, Shannon Lavery, Pete Johansson

PORTAGE STREET LIVE

The Good Will
9:30pm - TICKETS: \$15
HOST: Paul Rabinovitch
PERFORMERS: Ryan Ash, Dom Paré, Rebecca Kohler, Derek Seguin, Sterling Scott, Shannon Lavery, Chad Anderson

THE NO BRO SHOW 2

Gas Station Arts Centre
9:30pm - TICKETS: \$18
HOST: Tricia Cooper
PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, Chantel Marostica, Michelle Shaughnessy, Rebecca Kohler, Caitlin Langelier, Dana Smith

WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#6)

Rumor's Comedy Club
10:10pm - TICKETS: \$15
OPENER: Tanyadee Davis
HEADLINER: Ivan Decker

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th

CBC'S THE DEBATERS

Club Regent Event Centre
2pm - TICKETS: \$30
HOST: Steve Patterson

SATURDAY MATINEE GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre
4:15pm - TICKETS: \$35
THEME: Quit Your Day Job
HOST: Jonny Harris
PERFORMERS: Graham Chittenden, Bruce Clark, Derek Longwenus, Julie Kim, Rachel Sommer, Michelle Shaughnessy

SATURDAY LATE GALA

Pantages Playhouse Theatre
7:45pm - TICKETS: \$35
THEME: The Middle Ages
HOST: Jessica Holmes
PERFORMERS: Erica Sigurdson, David Pryde, Lori Gibbs, Dom Paré, Derek Seguin, Shazia Mirza

WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#7)

Rumor's Comedy Club
7:45pm - TICKETS: \$17
HEADLINER: D.J. Demers

WCF THEATRE SERIES - LEFTOVERS

Starring Charlie Demers
Gas Station Arts Centre
7:30pm - TICKETS: \$18

50 SHADES OF GAY

The Park
8pm - TICKETS: \$15
HOST: Darcy Michael
Act 1: Battiest Marostica
Act 2: Chantel Marostica
Act 3: Coming Out Swinging
Too with Hot Thespian Action
Caitlin Langelier, Tim Steffen, Ashley Moffatt

WCF RUMOR'S COMEDY CLUB SERIES (#8)

Rumor's Comedy Club
10pm - TICKETS: \$17
HEADLINER: Steve Dylan

THE ALTERNATIVE SHOW

The Park
10:30pm - TICKETS: \$15
(adult content)
HOST: Mark Forward
PERFORMERS: Darryl Orr, Wes Borg, Tim Gray, Dan Robertson, J.D. Renaud, Derek Longwenus, Sean Emery, Ashley Moffatt, Tyler Penner

SUNDAY, APRIL 12th

CBC'S THE DEBATERS

Club Regent Event Centre
2pm - TICKETS: \$30
HOST: Steve Patterson

WCF PRESENTS THE MICS

(Award Show plus
Host of John Wing)
Club Regent Event Centre
7pm - TICKETS: \$22
HOSTED BY: Simon Rakoff
PERFORMERS: Rebecca Kohler, Al Rae, Bruce Clark, Simon Rakoff, Darcy Michael



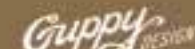
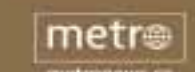
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16

WORLD

metronews.ca
 WEEKEND, February 20-22, 2015



A pro-Russia rebel cossack, second left, hugs another rebel in Debaltseve, eastern Ukraine, Thursday. PETER LEONARD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebel fighters take control of key town

Debaltseve. Retreating Ukrainian soldiers grim with at least 13 dead and hundreds missing, captured

For the rebel fighters who seized control of this strategic town, Thursday was a day of jubilation and bragging of victory.

The retreating Ukrainian soldiers were grim, stunned and relieved to have escaped

with their lives as the scope of their losses became clearer: at least 13 dead and hundreds missing, captured or wounded.

Rebel fighters roamed the debris-littered streets of Debaltseve, laughing, hugging and posing for photos a day after the fall of the furiously contested railway hub. Associated Press journalists found its neighbourhoods destroyed and all under the control of the rebels.

On the road out of town, dozens of Ukrainian military vehicles, many riddled with

bullet holes and with their windshields smashed, were heading to the government-held city of Artemivsk.

The soldiers inside described weeks of harrowing rebel shelling, followed by a hasty retreat.

"We left under heavy fire, driving on back roads," said a soldier who gave only his first name, Andrei. "As we were leaving, we were attacked by artillery and grenade launchers. We came under repeated attack by tanks and assault groups."

As rebels waved separatist flags, Nikolai Kozitsyn, a Russian Cossack leader and prominent warlord in the rebel-controlled east, drove around in a Humvee-like vehicle captured from Ukrainian troops.

All around lay the wrecked remains of Ukrainian armoured vehicles. Rebel fighters, many of them Cossacks, searched through the bunkers and tents of an abandoned military encampment, looking to salvage equipment and clothing left behind.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muslims must fight 'ugly lie' that West is at war with Islam: Obama



President Barack Obama speaks at the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Summit, Thursday. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama called on the world Thursday to confront efforts to use Islam to justify violence, saying Muslim communities in particular have a responsibility to push back on "twisted interpretations of Islam" and the belief that the West is at war with the religion.

With ISIL spreading and terrorists gaining strength in the Mideast and Africa, Obama has sought to use a White House summit this

week on violent extremism to urge the world to broaden its response far beyond military interventions. U.S. airstrikes have managed to blunt some of the militants' gains in Iraq and Syria, but they don't address the extreme ideologies that underpin deadly groups such as ISIL, al-Shabab and Boko Haram.

At the summit's closing session at the State Department, UN Secretary-General

Ban Ki-moon said the United Nations system will work on a "comprehensive multi-stakeholder plan of action to prevent violent extremism" that will be presented to the General Assembly later this year. He said that as a first step, he will convene a special event in the next months "that will bring together faith leaders from all around the world to promote mutual understanding and reconciliation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A "superbug" outbreak suspected in the deaths of two patients at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles has raised questions about the procedures for disinfecting a frequently used medical instrument. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apparent 'superbug' deaths linked to tainted instrument

Antibiotic resistance. Incompletely sterilized endoscopes carries lethal bacteria

A "superbug" outbreak suspected in the deaths of two patients at a Los Angeles hospital has raised questions about the adequacy of the procedures for

disinfecting a type of medical instrument used on more than a half-million people in the U.S. every year.

At least seven people — two of whom died — have been infected by a potentially lethal, antibiotic-resistant strain of bacteria after undergoing endoscopic procedures at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center between October and January, and more than

170 other patients may have been exposed as well, UCLA said.

The germ is known as Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, or CRE.

UCLA said Wednesday that the infections may have been transmitted through at least two contaminated endoscopes that were used to diagnose and treat pancreatic and bile-duct problems. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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VOICES

CELEBS DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT

THE KOHLER
REPORT

By Rebecca Kohler

Is it just me, or has there been an uptick lately in celebrities touting pseudo-medical advice that seems particularly unsound? From weird pubic care to body-binding workout regimes, the tabloids are starting to look more like quack medical encyclopedias than entertaining gossip rags.

One of the most recent examples of weird body care advice comes from Gwyneth Paltrow vis-à-vis the V-Steem. Gwyneth recently wrote a post on her lifestyle website, GOOP, about how she had her vagina steamed: "You sit on what is essentially a mini-throne, and a combination of infrared and mugwort steam cleanses your uterus, et al." she insisted. "If you're in L.A. you have to do it." Sorry, G., but I have my next trip to L.A. all planned out and it involves eating tacos, not cleansing them.

While I used to view celebrity advice and websites such as GOOP as just irritating (GOOP is hard for me to read because my eyes won't stop rolling), I'm starting to wonder if this stuff is actually dangerous.

After Gwyn poached her pants area, doctors went berserk online, citing all sorts of reasons why that is a terrible idea. That part of the

female body has an ecosystem and sending steam through the chute has the potential to throw it off balance. I'd say the idiom, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" has never been truer than when referring to a vagina.

Kim Kardashian has also touted some iffy practices to the common people. Kim is a fan and advocate of "waist training," which involves wearing a corset, even while you work out — the stupid idea being that you sweat more in your abdomen area. Also, the corset is making your waist tinier because ... well it's not, because that's impossible. Look, I get the science behind binding a baby, but trying to shrink your waist as an adult? You're fully-grown and your bones are hard. Deal. But KK has posted several selfies in her corset and the masses are listening.

Doctors are upset about the corsets, too. Wearing a corset for extended periods of time — "waist trainers" wear them for up to 12 hours a day — can not only weaken your abdominal muscles but also actually make them atrophy. "Look at my tiny waist! Pay no attention to the shrivelled, dead muscle."

Then there's Selma Hayek, a vocal fan of juice cleanses and/or detoxes who insists that's how she maintains her sexy figure. Studies prove both of these practices to be useless. Real doctors will tell you that your body has a

No steaming necessary

After Gwyn poached her pants area, doctors went berserk online, citing all sorts of reasons as to why that is a terrible idea.

natural detoxification system in place — liver, lungs, skin etc. — and doesn't need your help.

Let's not forget the celebrity anti-vaxxers who may or may not be partly responsible for the recent measles outbreak in North America. Jenny McCarthy is famously outspoken in saying vaccinations cause autism — which, for the MILLIONTH time, they DON'T — and reality star Kristin Cavallari joined in the fun last year, stating, "Here's the thing ... There are very scary statistics out there regarding ... vaccines and what they cause: asthma, allergies, ear infections ..." Ear infections? Seriously, lady? Even if that were true, are you saying you'd rather your kid get measles than an ear infection? (I got an ear infection just listening to the interview.)

Considering celebs are rich and successful and generally good-looking, it makes sense that people would look to them for life advice. But as "successful" as someone like Kim Kar-

dashian is, we have to remember she's not a professional of any sort. The best teachings she has to offer probably involve dislodging a bad wedgie.

Please don't take advice from celebrities because a) it can be dangerous; b) it'll cost you a fortune; and, c) when we hear these snippets about their "amazing lives," we're not getting the full story. Did it ever occur to Salma Hayek that she's hot because she can afford \$800 face creams and personal trainers and chefs to cook her healthy meals? Gwyneth Paltrow might be steaming her vagina to fill a void (no pun intended) left by her "conscious uncoupling" and Kim Kardashian's waist looks small because she has big boobs and a booty. As for Kristin Cavallari, not vaccinating her kids might be her best bet at getting any sort of publicity. If you absolutely feel like your vagina needs a steam (mine is pretty steamy on its own) or you could lose a few pounds or inches, then OK, but talk to a doctor first. I know your doctor is boring compared to a Hollywood star, but that's because he/she studied a lot to know what's best for you.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From top dogs to uncomfortable visits, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



FAKING IT

Oregon man Aleksander Tomaszewski, who was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault, has gained a couple new charges after allegedly beating himself up while in custody, and trying to blame police for his injuries. Video shows a man punching himself in the face as many as 60 times in his holding cell. Just a reminder folks, Big Brother is watching you. Especially if you're in a police station.



DOG-GONE RIGHT!

America's top dog is a Canuck! A mild-mannered beagle named Miss P was named Best in Show at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club at Madison Square Garden this week. The pooch, who originally hails from Enderby, B.C., has already made the morning talk show circuit and met Donald Trump.



ROYALLY EMBARRASSING

Like any obligatory trip home to see the parents whose privilege you've spent a lifetime trying to escape but never fully disowned, Canada's visits to England always feel a little off. This time, the weirdness took place at Thursday's official reopening of Canada's newly refurbished high commission in London. Unaccountably, John Baird was there representing us. He's even referred to as foreign minister on the commemorative plaque. You'll recall, of course, that he quit that job weeks ago. Yeah. Awkward.



TIGHTY WHITEYS

This week in amazing excuses: A Manitoba MP is holding cheap, ill-fitting underwear to account for a "brief" absence from his seat in the House of Commons while a vote was being counted. "I can blame it on a sale that was down at the Hudson's Bay; they had men's underwear on for half price. I bought a bunch that was clearly too small," said Winnipeg Centre representative Pat Martin. Cheeky, Mr. Martin, very cheeky.



STRIP-SEARCHED TEEN

Quebec school officials are under serious fire after strip-searching a 15-year-old student over suspicions she was hiding marijuana. The province's education minister defended such searches as a reasonable safety measure provided they are done in a "respectful" manner. The girl's parents and civil-rights groups vocally disagree.



Focus on fashion



Kathy Griffin
GETTY IMAGES

Kathy Griffin is ready to rip on the red carpet

Kathy Griffin likes to joke (or is she serious?) that, one year on her tax return, she put her profession as "Anonymous." Such is her multi-hyphenate stature: a standup comic, sitcom star, reality-show queen, periodic D-Lister and, now, host of Fashion Police, E! network's couture critique.

Griffin has retrieved the mantel from Joan Rivers, who presided riotously in cahoots with her Joan Rangers until her death last summer.

"She obviously left very big shoes," said Griffin.

"But we agree that it's essential to comedy to be fearless and not be afraid to make enemies — certainly, in Hollywood! C'mon, we're not talking about heads of state here."

As for viewing, Griffin says: "I haven't decided whether to go to a party where I can get more material, or just watch at home, judging harshly in silence."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NPH's time to shine

Interview. First-time Academy Awards host talks about nerves, his hosting heroes and what he'll do if Kanye crashes the stage

Neil Patrick Harris might use his job as Oscar host as a way to meet his favourite stars. "I have, essentially, an all-access pass to the theatre," Harris said during a recent interview.

"So I love being able to stand there and say hello to people I've never met before. I'm very easily star struck, so it'll be very exciting to shake hands with celebrities."

Harris has hosted the Emmys twice and the Tony Awards four times — and has won both awards. On Sunday, he takes on his first Oscar show. The multitasking entertainer took a few minutes between rehearsals to talk about his plans for the big night.

How is preparing to host the Oscars different from the Tonys or Emmys?

I want to make sure my content is inclusive of everyone watching, and more people watch the Oscars than any other awards show probably combined. I have more filters probably, in terms of content... The Oscars — it's a ritual for many people. They see it every single year, and all around the world. So I want to be a little classier and try to be a bit more mainstream while trying to maintain a wink and a nod to those in the know.

You watched all the past Oscar hosts as part of your

research. Who stood out for you, and who would you most like to emulate?

My initial answer would probably be Billy Crystal. I was just the right age to be so taken by movies as an idea, and he had such joy and exuberance about the world of film... But as I've done more research, I'm even more impressed now by the older-school generation of Johnny Carson, Bob Hope, and their ability to stand in one place and make (people) feel comfortable just in their demeanour. Because it's a very classy night — everyone's in their tuxedos and fancy dresses — so I'm hoping to make it feel like an A-list dinner party that you get to come and attend.

How nervous are you?

Well, my job as host is to not be nervous when the show is happening. But I think, in life, being nervous about something that's forthcoming is very helpful, whether it's an awards show or a family gathering or a job interview. If you're too calm and confident, then I think you aren't executing to the best of your ability. So

I try not to let nerves get the best of me, but I welcome them because it tends to fuel me to try harder.

Have you prepared for the possibility of Kanye West coming onstage?

I think the security at Saturday Night Live is still holding him in his seat there from last (week's) show. So, fingers crossed, he's detained in New York City. No, nothing would make me happier than something as random as that, as Kanye West deciding to participate in the show in some way. That's why you want to watch the Oscars. We hope for things to happen that you'll only experience by watching it... The crazier the better, as far as I'm concerned. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



What to watch and when

CTV begins Oscar coverage at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

- E!Talk's Red Carpet Special starts at 5:30 CT. Ben Mulroney and Lainey Lui will be on a balcony capturing a bird's eye view of red carpet arrivals.

- The Oscars Opening Ceremony, hosted by Good Morning America anchors Robin Roberts and Lara Spencer, starts at 6 p.m., showcasing the nominees, presenters and performers arriving on the ABC red carpet.

- The main event starts at 7:30 p.m.

- You have to be a subscriber to CTV Go to watch the broadcast online. Anyone can stream coverage from the Academy Awards press room at ctv.ca.

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If Metro could hack the Academy vote

Rather than waste your time with Oscar predictions, which are bound to be wrong anyway, here's something slightly more useful: What we'd pick, if anyone had asked us.

NED EHRBAR & MATT PRIGGE

For Metro



The Grand Budapest Hotel CONTRIBUTED

Best picture

What should win: Wes Anderson's *Grand Budapest Hotel* is the kind of carefully crafted, completely realized vision that should be edging out *Boyhood* and *Birdman*.

What should have been nominated: If the Academy had any guts or vision, it would have celebrated the singular, twisted vision of Dan Gilroy's *Nightcrawler*, a truly disturbing masterpiece.

Supporting actor

Who should win: He may be only slightly less intimidating than his Oz Neo-Nazi, but J.K. Simmons' jazz instructor in *Whiplash* was still a thoroughly embodied portrait of a sociopath.

Who should have been nominated: As a 60-year-old virgin, Stellan Skarsgård helped make sure Lars Von Trier's porn epic *Nymphomaniac* was the infamous filmmaker's funniest and most humane film.



J.K. Simmons
GETTY IMAGES



Wes Anderson GETTY IMAGES

Best director

Who should win: Given that he's created his own style of filmmaking, it's frankly incredible *The Grand Budapest Hotel* creator Wes Anderson hasn't won a directing Oscar yet.

Who should have been nominated: With the Scarjo alien opus *Under the Skin*, Jonathan Glazer created a genuinely unique film, one that owes as much to the way it was created as it was filmed.

Supporting actress

Who should win: Let's hear it for Keira Knightley, who took what could have been a rather dull, throwaway supporting role in *The Imitation Game* and quietly ran away with the film, outshining even co-star and fellow nominee Benedict Cumberbatch.

Who should have been nominated: Rene Russo stepped back into the spotlight in outstanding fashion as a cutthroat, desperate local news producer in *Nightcrawler*.



Keira Knightley and Benedict Cumberbatch CONTRIBUTED

Best actor

Who should win: Hype demands Michael Keaton or Eddie Redmayne win this, but Bradley Cooper's steely and very, very, very quietly anguished turn in *American Sniper* was one of the reasons the film was more complicated than its fans and detractors claim.

Who should have been nominated: Mysteriously, Ralph Fiennes' super-alert creation — Monsieur Gustave H. in Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* — both debonair and lowbrow (and sometimes in the same rattled-off line), was snubbed in favour of actors mostly playing real people.



Bradley Cooper in American Sniper CONTRIBUTED

Best actress

Who should win: For once, everyone seems to be in agreement, because no performance this year came close to inevitable winner Julianne Moore for *Still Alice*.

Who should have been nominated: Into the Woods might not have done much this awards season, but Emily Blunt still deserves recognition for her standout work in the Sondheim musical.



Julianne Moore
GETTY IMAGES

Best original screenplay

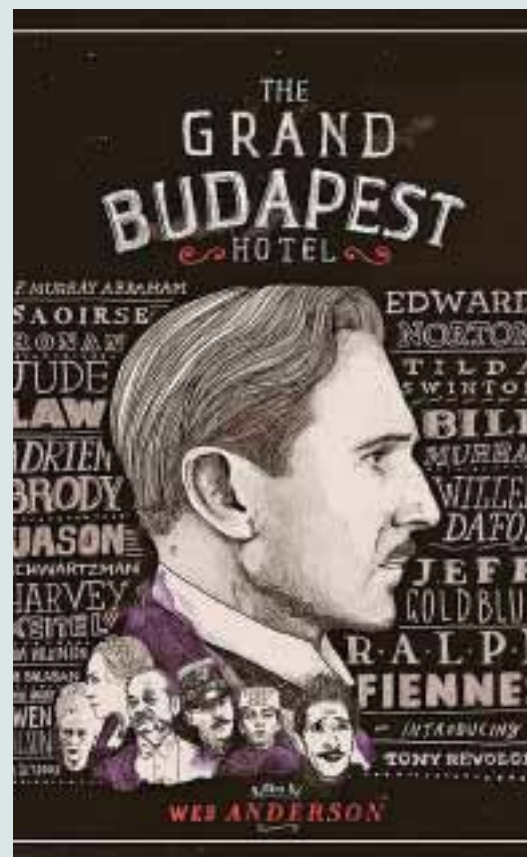
What should win: Wes Anderson's films are constructed top-to-bottom, and the riots of pink and spot-on performances in *The Grand Budapest Hotel* are nothing without the solid foundation of its script.

What should have been nominated: Justin Simien's *Dear White People* shuffles around a score of characters and provocative ideas like pieces on a chessboard.

Best adapted screenplay

What should win: Paul Thomas Anderson should take this one. He did the impossible in bringing a Thomas Pynchon novel to the screen.

What should have been nominated: The Writers Guild decided *Guardians of the Galaxy* was worthy of recognition, so why couldn't the Academy? Yes, it's a comic book movie, but it's a damn fine comic book movie.



A moving tale of small-town sports success

Biopic. Running coach who was the inspiration behind McFarland film remains humble despite Hollywood treatment

Jim and Cheryl White have seen the movie McFarland three times and teared up at every viewing, even though, as he says, "We knew what was going to happen."

The film, which stars Kevin Costner as the most successful Californian high school cross-country coach in history, is the story of White, his wife and their life and work in McFarland, Calif., an impoverished town transformed by sports.

The Texas native taught in McFarland for 40 years, establishing a cross-country running team that would win nine state championships and give the runners a glimpse of life outside their small town and nearby fields where many of them worked as migrant "pickers."

His success may have earned him a Hollywood biopic and a more permanent tribute in the form of a dedicated gazebo in the town square, but he sees his influence in more metaphysical terms. "To me, my legacy is in the hearts and minds of these boys I've taught," he says.

In person, White is a

humble man who quietly commands respect. At a post-screening Q&A I hosted with him in Toronto, he earned a standing ovation before even saying a word. As the audience clapped he was genuinely moved, and with a quivering voice whispered to me to "take over for a second."

Earlier in the day, we discussed seeing his life played out on the big screen. "We just hoped they could portray our true feelings of love for the town, for the community. That came across real well. We also felt like they portrayed the true hardships these boys went through."

Hollywood did make some changes to White's story and one scene in particular irked him. When we first see White in the film, he's hurling a cleated shoe at the lippy captain of his Idaho school football team, opening the kid's cheek.

"That is dramatic licence," he says. "It bothered me for a while but I



Carlos Pratts, left, and Kevin Costner appear in a scene from McFarland. RON PHILLIPS/DISNEY

talked to Kevin Costner about it. I said, 'Kevin, can you give me your true feelings about the situation that happened in Idaho?' He said, 'I think, Jim, you're going to come across as the hero and not the vil-

lain because you're standing up for what's right.' I said, 'All right,' and I was satisfied with that."

White often uses the phrase "Well, that's Hollywood for you," when describ-

In Review

Hot Tub Time Machine 2

McFarland

The DUFF

Wrecking Crew

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE



ing the making of the film and liberties taken with his life's story. But now the movie is finished, he says, "What was really fascinating to both of us was watching the screen and seeing them say, 'Mr. White would you come in here,' (or) 'Jim White this, and Cheryl White that.' We're sitting there looking at ourselves up there. It was kind of funny."



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Drama



McFarland

Director. Niki Caro

Stars. Kevin Costner,
Carlos Pratt

From Disney comes McFarland, the true against-all-odds story of the 1987 McFarland high school cross-country team in an economically challenged community.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 67% Audience: +87%

Comedy



The DUFF

Director. Ari Sandel

Stars. Mae Whitman,
Robbie Amell

Bianca is a high school senior whose world is shattered when she learns the student body knows her as "The DUFF" (Designated Ugly Fat Friend) to her prettier, more popular friends. Now, despite the words of caution from her favourite teacher, she puts aside the potential distraction of her crush and enlists Wesley, a slick but charming jock, to help reinvent herself.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 88% Audience: +91%

Romance



Fifty Shades of Grey

Director. Sam Taylor-Johnson

E.L. James' kinky bestseller gets the big-screen treatment with this Universal Pictures/Focus Features co-production. The steamy tale details a masochistic relationship between a college student and a businessman, whose desires for extreme intimacy stem from secrets in his past.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 25% Audience: 50%

Comedy



Hot Tub Time Machine 2

Director. Steve Pink

Stars. Craig Robinson,
Rob Corddry

Hot Tub Time Machine director Steve Pink returns to the helm for this sequel set 10 years in the future, and starring Rob Corddry, Adam Scott, Clark Duke, and Craig Robinson.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet Audience: +92%

Comedy



Jupiter Ascending

Director. Andy Wachowski,
Lana Wachowski

From the streets of Chicago to the far-flung galaxies whirling through space, Jupiter Ascending tells the story of Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis), who was born under a night sky, with signs predicting she was destined for great things.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 23% Audience: 49%

Mystery & Suspense



Kingsman: The Secret Service

Director. Matthew Vaughn

Based upon the acclaimed comic book and directed by Matthew Vaughn (Kick Ass, X-Men First Class), Kingsman: The Secret Service tells the story of a super-secret spy organization that recruits an unrefined but promising street kid into the agency's ultra-competitive training program just as a global threat emerges from a twisted tech genius.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 77% Audience: 88%

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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Bite into Academy Award luxury



Appetizers. Escargot and Garlic Stuffed Tomato Tarts are perfect for your glam party



RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

Hosting an Academy Awards screening party? Save the chips and dip for a less grandiose event. This super-chic soiree needs a healthy dose of luxe! Think escargot and, of course, plenty of bubbly.

When making these appetizers, make sure you prick the dough thoroughly, because the tomatoes can easily fall on the side while baking.

Simply place them back when arranging them on a serving platter.

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 400 F (200 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. On a lightly floured surface,

roll out the dough to about 1/8 inch (3 mm) thick. With a 1 3/4-inch (4.5 cm) round cookie cutter, make enough circles to match your quantity of snails. With a fork, prick the centre of the dough several times. Place on the baking sheet and refrigerate.

3. Cut off the tomato caps, then cut off a thin slice at the base so they stand in place. Remove the flesh with a small melon baller. Set aside.

4. In a skillet, melt the butter with the garlic. Add the snails and cook for about 1 minute while stirring. Add the chives. Season with pepper. Stuff each tomato with a snail. Set aside.

5. In a bowl, combine the sour cream and mustard. Brush over each circle of dough. Top with the stuffed tomatoes. Drizzle with the remaining garlic butter. Bake until golden brown, about 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve warm as an hors d'oeuvre.

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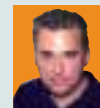
Ingredients

- 1/2 lb (225 g) thawed and cold puff pastry
- 24 cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup (57 g) butter
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 can (200 g) snails, rinsed and

- drained (about 24 snails)
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh chives or thyme leaves
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sour cream
- 1 1/2 tsp (7.5 ml) Dijon mustard

Liquid Assets

Tomato-wine challenge



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Though it may be one of the most popular fruits in the world (and yes, technically it is a fruit) the affable tomato can be, in a word, challenging when it comes to a wine match.

When I first read Chef Ricardo's recipe for escargot and garlic stuffed tomato tarts, I couldn't help but feel a bit like Indiana Jones when he realized the temple was full of snakes in Raiders of the Lost Ark.

To paraphrase: Tomatoes. Why did it have to be tomatoes?

Not that they're impossible to partner with wine. It's just that their forward acidity and ripe, fruity juiciness can be an off-putting counterpoint to the vivacious personalities of many wines.

A foodie friend of mine adores a Sauvignon Blanc-based white with tomatoes. I lean towards an acid-forward red like an Italian Sangiovese.



While Italy's Chianti region in Tuscany is considered Sangiovese's true home, Farnese's 2013 Fantini Sangiovese IGT (\$7.95 to \$10.49), made in Abruzzo, is as soft on the palate as it is on the pocketbook.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

3 TIME

This recipe makes approximately 24 appetizers. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

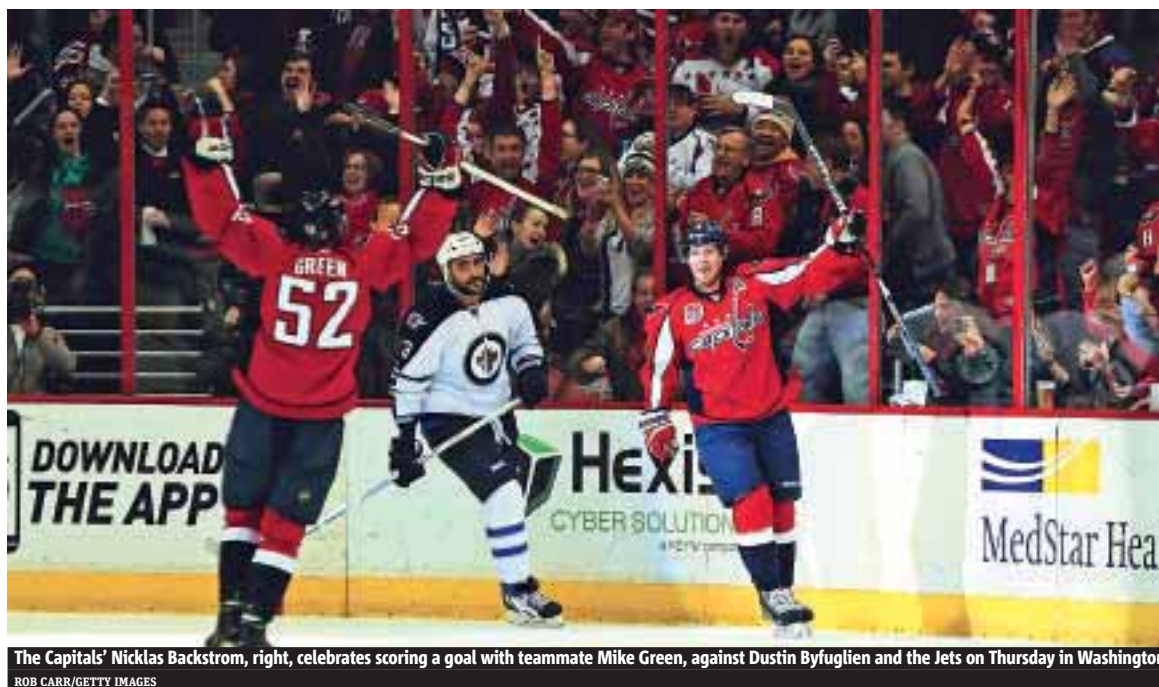
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BIG BAJA BENEDICT





The Capitals' Nicklas Backstrom, right, celebrates scoring a goal with teammate Mike Green, against Dustin Byfuglien and the Jets on Thursday in Washington. ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

Jets crumble under Capital punishment

NHL. Backstrom's three points put him into a tie for scoring lead

Nicklas Backstrom scored two second-period goals and added an assist, Alex Ovechkin added his league-leading 38th goal and an assist and the Washington Capitals defeated the Winnipeg Jets 5-1 on Thursday night.

Troy Brouwer added an empty-net goal and an assist, John Carlson scored, and Marcus Johansson recorded two

On Thursday

5

Capitals

1

Jets

assists for Washington, which has won four of five.

Backstrom, who has 16 assists in his past 16 games, moved into a tie with Chicago's Patrick Kane atop the NHL scoring list with 63 points.

Ovechkin, celebrating his bobblehead night, extended his point streak to six games, and Braden Holtby stopped 19 shots.

Toby Enstrom scored for Winnipeg, which had won four of five, and Ondrej Pavelec made 28 saves.

The Capitals scored three power-play goals and have eight in their past six games.

Trailing 2-0 after one period, the Jets pulled within one at 11:17 of the second when Enstrom's shot from the point ricocheted off the stick and skate of Washington's Karl Alzner before elud-

ing Holtby.

Just 15 seconds later, however, Winnipeg's Blake Wheeler was called for tripping, the first of four Jets penalties over the next 4:15.

Backstrom converted on two of them.

First his shot from the point on a delayed call got by Pavelec at 13:07 to make it 3-1.

Then Backstrom capped a pretty tic-tac-toe passing sequence when he took a pass across the slot from Ovechkin and fired it into the back of the net for his 18th goal at 15:47. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Cross-country skiing

Harvey captures silver medal in sprint event

Canada's Alex Harvey won the silver medal in the men's cross-country sprint Thursday at the Nordic skiing world championships.

Harvey was edged by Petter Northug in a photo finish when the Norwegian stretched out his ski to win gold.

It was Northug's 10th career world title but first in an individual sprint. He had a gap on Harvey entering the final stretch of the classical-style race but Harvey, from St-Ferreolles-Neiges, Que., had the stronger finish over the last 50 metres, forcing the Norwegian to lunge forward at the line to hold off his rival.

Harvey won his fifth medal on the Falun course, where he earned his first career World Cup victory three years ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Riders welcome back QB Glenn

Kevin Glenn is back with the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

The veteran quarterback signed with the Riders as a free agent Thursday. Glenn, 35, began his CFL career with Saskatchewan in 2001 and spent three seasons with the club.

Glenn started 17 regular-season games last season with the B.C. Lions, completing 63 per cent of his passes for 3,918 yards and 17 TDs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jones, Sweeting to meet twice Friday



Jennifer Jones won both of her matches on Thursday to improve to 9-1 at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba's Jennifer Jones strengthened her grip on second place at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Thursday with a 10-3 rout of Prince Edward Island's Suzanne Birt and a 6-3 defeat of Northern Ontario's Tracy Horgan.

Jones improved to 9-1 and trailed only Val Sweeting of Alberta in the round-robin standings.

Sweeting scored two in the last end for a dramatic 7-6 victory over Canada's Rachel Homan in the afternoon draw

Quest for three-peat

Homan, the two-time defending champion, fell to 6-3 with the loss to Sweeting. She was to face New Brunswick's Sylvie Robichaud Thursday evening.

to remain unbeaten.

Sweeting hit a clutch run-back with her final stone to improve to 9-0. She was to face Saskatchewan's Stefanie Lawton later in the evening draw.

The victory in the rematch of last year's Scotties final gives Sweeting a berth in the one-two Page Playoff game Friday night against Jones.

"We just have to stay strong now," Sweeting said. "Momentum is good going into the playoffs. We just want to finish strong and hopefully just come out on top."

Sweeting and Jones will play twice on Friday. They'll meet in the round-robin finale in the morning, with the winner to earn the first seed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacDonald gets his second shot at Lawler

MMA. Montreal-based athlete promises he'll be 'a much better fighter for this one'

Rory MacDonald has lost just twice in 10 years and learned from both setbacks.

In 2010 in Vancouver, he let the emotion of the crowd and fighting in his home province get to him in his second UFC outing. Veteran Carlos (The Natural Born Killer) Condit rallied to put MacDonald away with just seven seconds remaining at UFC 115.

Against "Ruthless" Robbie Lawler at UFC 167 in Las Vegas in 2013, a lacklustre training camp was followed by an uneven performance that was not helped by a third-round poke in the eye. MacDonald had his moments



Rory MacDonald says he's learned to leave his emotions out of the octagon after the loss to Carlos Condit at UFC 115. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

but not enough of them, and lost a split decision.

Now MacDonald (18-2) is getting a second crack at Lawler, this time for the welterweight championship. The 25-year-old Montreal-based fighter has been

matched against Lawler (25-10 with one no contest) in the co-main event of UFC 189 on July 11 in Las Vegas.

"I'm going to be a much better fighter for this one," MacDonald said in an interview Thursday, one day after

the fight announcement.

His first meeting with Lawler, however painful, proved to be worthwhile.

"I'm grateful (for) the experience I had that night with Robbie," MacDonald said.

"It really was a kick in the ass and a blessing in disguise. I was upset about it, but I can't explain how much that motivated me to get myself back into where I need to be. I wasn't at my best for that fight and it was my fault."

After the Condit loss, MacDonald learned not to bring emotion into the cage with him. His normal pre-fight demeanour is so cool that the ringside doctor might be tempted to feel for a pulse.

In the wake of the loss, he adopted a new attitude.

"Just having fun with martial arts and getting back to that passion and enjoying my life in martial arts," he said. "That's all." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

T-Wolves to get Garnett back: Reports

Kevin Garnett is coming back to the place it all began. And it won't be for just one final victory lap.

The Minnesota Timberwolves are sending forward Thaddeus Young to the Brooklyn Nets for Garnett, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Heat sign Dragic

Goran Dragic wanted a new home, and the Miami Heat wanted a new guard.

On trade deadline day, they were a perfect match.

The Heat swung a deal to acquire Dragic from Phoenix Thursday, a source told The Associated Press. The person said Miami sent Norris Cole, Shawne Williams, Danny Granger and Justin Hamilton to the Suns.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Elway hints at Manning's return to Denver

Asked who he thinks Denver's quarterback will be next season, John Elway left no doubt: Peyton Manning.

Asked about how Manning's contract might read if he does return, Elway was less clear: "The bottom line is, I don't like to get into anyone's contract."

Elway's deflection of the contract question Thursday left open the possibility that negotiations over dollars could be holding up a final decision as Manning considers returning for a fourth season in Denver. Manning is scheduled to make \$19 million next season, and the Broncos could use some extra cap room as they prepare to shore up their offensive and defensive lines.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Peyton Manning
GETTY IMAGES

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Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
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| 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
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| 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 |

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| | 3 | 8 | | 6 | | 2 | | 4 |

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Today's horoscope

The stars have aligned. It's time to put your doubts behind you and get the vehicle you deserve.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

As your ruler Mars moves into your sign today you will be in an assertive mood. Just be careful not to get too domineering for some people's tastes.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If you can't get what you want over the next 24 hours you will get the chance to make up for it tomorrow. The only thing you have to fear is fear itself, so tell yourself you can do anything you want — and believe it.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You are so enthusiastic about something that you cannot understand why some people are being so negative about it. Maybe they have looked at the situation in a balanced way.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You could easily lose patience with someone on the work front today, but hold back from saying anything too negative. They could make things tough for you later if they decide they don't like your attitude.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You are in a helpful mood at the moment, but don't be too helpful. Do you want to end up doing so much for others that you have no time to do anything for yourself?

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

A financial opportunity of some kind is certainly worth pursuing but the planets warn it may not be quite as wonderful as you've been lead to believe. At the very least there will be a lot of work involved. Are you OK with that?

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

As Venus, planet of love, moves into the relationship area of your chart today it's likely you will meet someone who gets your pulse racing. Don't get carried away — yet.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Certain chores may be tiresome but there is no way you can get out of them so you might as well do the best possible job. At least one person will be impressed — and reward you in a way that you like.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Don't make any travel plans for today or tomorrow because there is something special coming your way and if you move you may miss it — or, more likely, it will miss you.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Mars in the domestic sector of your chart is likely to spark family squabbles but they are really not that important. Also, with Venus working in your favour you can calm things down. Be the voice of reason.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Social activities will be fun over the next few days but there will be challenges too. Someone you meet could rub you the wrong way over something trivial but it's really no big deal.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You may lose your cool about something that normally would not bother you. If you do flare up for no good reason calm down as quickly as you can and have the good grace to admit you went over the top.

We make the decision, not the banks.

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Yesterday's Crossword



Online

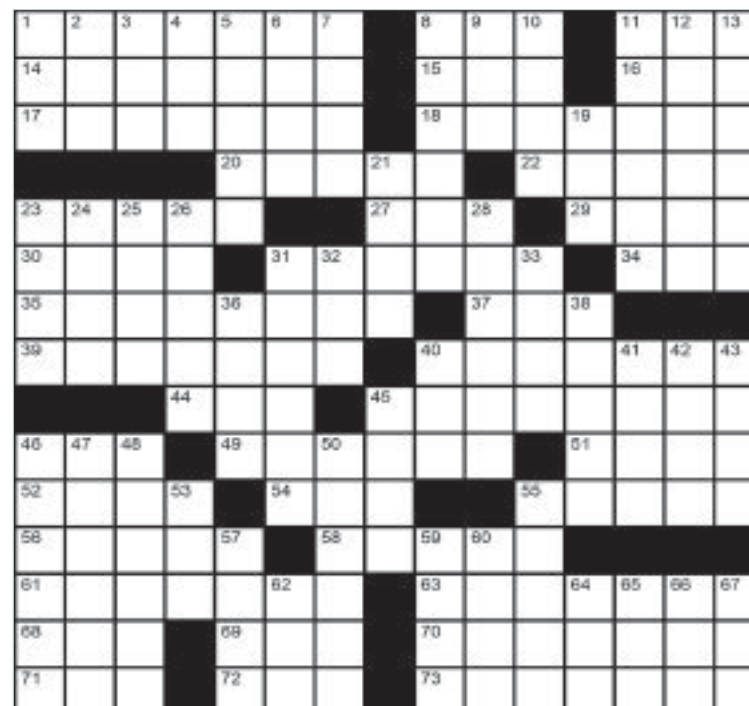
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers



Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Oscars 2015: Dean __, Canadian director (with Bonnie Arnold) who is up for an Oscar for #50-Down at this weekend's ceremonies
8. __ for the cameras
11. Drink delicately
14. Ferocious fire
15. Fit Fiddle link: 2 wds.
16. __'easter
17. Conquers
18. TV Western on which #11-Down's director Clint Eastwood starred
20. Prefix to 'comedy'
22. Military caps
23. Domicile
27. Movie studio area
29. Quebec singer Mr. Simard
30. Uncommon
31. Health resort amenities
34. Soak flax
35. Keep from happening
37. New Zealand parrot
39. Take off with the cash
40. Super salty splashy spot: 2 wds.
44. "Won-der-ful!"
45. Oscars 2015: As per #1-Across and #70-Across... __
- Feature Film
46. Inquire
49. 1971 Elton John



album: ' __ Across the Water'

51. Ski __
52. Red veggie
54. Three, in Italy
55. Exits-not
56. Country singer Mr. Jackson's
58. Mr. Agassi
61. Locale
63. Backslide

68. Rock producer Brian

69. Philosopher, __-tzu
70. Oscars 2015: As the co-director of "The Boxtrolls" (2014), Canadian cartoonist Graham __ is up for an Oscar in the category at

#45-Across

71. __ Antonio
72. Barbie's boyfriend
73. Adieu!

Down

1. Fared
2. Mariner's dir.
3. Texter's pal
4. Liberace's nick-name

5. Pontificate

6. Book's foreword [abbr.]
7. Baseball's Sammy
8. Oscars 2015: Best Actress nominee Ms. Cotillard
9. Can. neighbour
10. Look bewilderedly
11. Oscars 2015: Best Picture nominee,

"American __" (2014)

12. Antiseptic
13. Adjust ahead of time
19. HRH part
21. Paste
23. Italian harp
24. Dig
25. Finds in mines
26. Record label
28. Absorb the knowledge: 2 wds.
31. Tropical vacation headgear
32. Supplement
33. Crease
36. Some soil
38. Go with the flow
40. CSI evidence
41. Athena's walkway
42. Like a Conger
43. Tangy quaffs
45. "Farewell, Father!"
46. Puts down
47. Ms. Gomez
48. Oscars 2015: Best Actor nominee, Michael __
50. Oscars 2015: "How To Train Your __ 2" (2014)
53. Blasting letters
55. Repetition mark, in music
57. Fancy fabric
59. Downer
60. Gambling mecca
62. Dundee denial
64. "Totally awesome"
65. Sort of tide
66. Knavish
67. Envision

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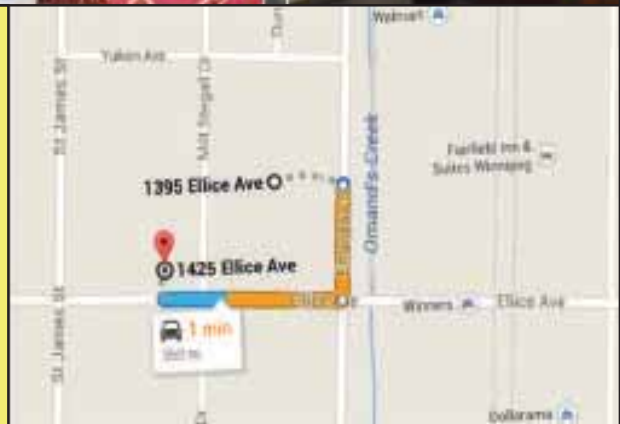
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